

The Examiner indicated that the drawings filed on April 30, 2001 are objected to because reference numerals 48, 48a and 48b; 101, 117a and 117b; 118, 118a and 118b are not found on the figures. Also, reference number 314 on Fig. 32 is not found in the specification. Further, pins D and G are not labeled in Fig. 33. The Examiner requested proposed drawing corrections or corrected formal drawings in reply to the office action.

Applicant has amended Fig. 3 to depict reference numbers 48, 48a and 48b as described on page 11 of the specification. Applicant has amended Fig. 14 to depict reference numbers 101, 117a and 117b as described on page 14 of the specification. Applicant has amended Fig. 11 to depict reference numbers 118, 118a and 118b as described on page 15 of the specification. Reference number 314 on Fig. 32 has been deleted. Fig. 33 has been amended to depict pins D and G as described on pages 22-24 of the specification. Informal drawing sheets having the above amendments highlighted in red ink according to MPEP § 608.02(v) are included herewith. No new matter has been entered as a result of these amendments.

Applicant noticed the following items which also require correction. Applicant has also added reference number 80 to Fig. 14 as supported in the specification. An arrow has been added to the leader line for reference number 243 on Fig. 27. Fig. 32 has been amended to more accurately depict a preferred embodiment of applicant's invention. Informal drawing sheets having the above amendments in red ink are included herewith. No new matter has been entered as a result of these amendments.

The Examiner indicated that claims 9-12 are allowed. The allowance of claim 9-12 is gratefully acknowledged. Applicant requests that claims 9-12 move to issue and that claims 1-8

and 13-20 are cancelled without prejudice so that applicant can file a divisional application on these claims.

Regarding claims 9-12, the Examiner stated that the prior art fails to show or teach a bay for a surge protector in a base unit of the type claimed. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner that the above is the only reason for the allowability of claims 9-12. Applicant believes that a downstream power port disposed on the housing for removably mounting the base unit to a downstream stackable component and for providing voltage and ground to the downstream stackable component is the prime reason for allowability over the prior art.

In view of the above amendments, it is submitted that the application properly defines applicant's invention and distinguishes the same over the prior art of record. Therefore, the application appears to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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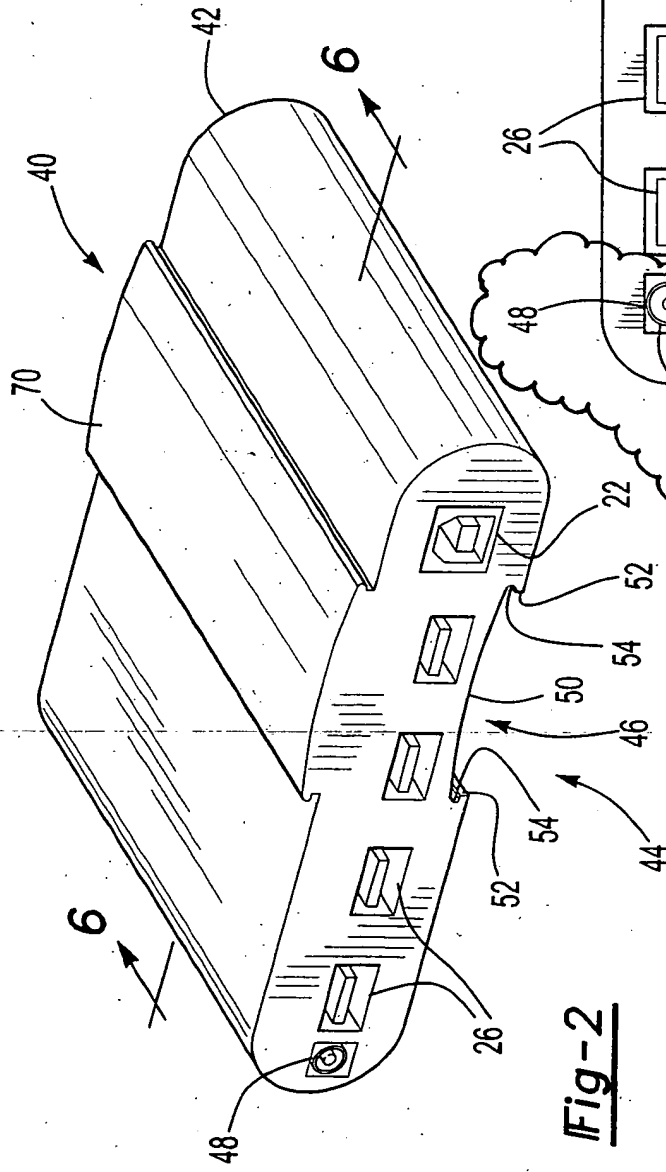


Fig-3

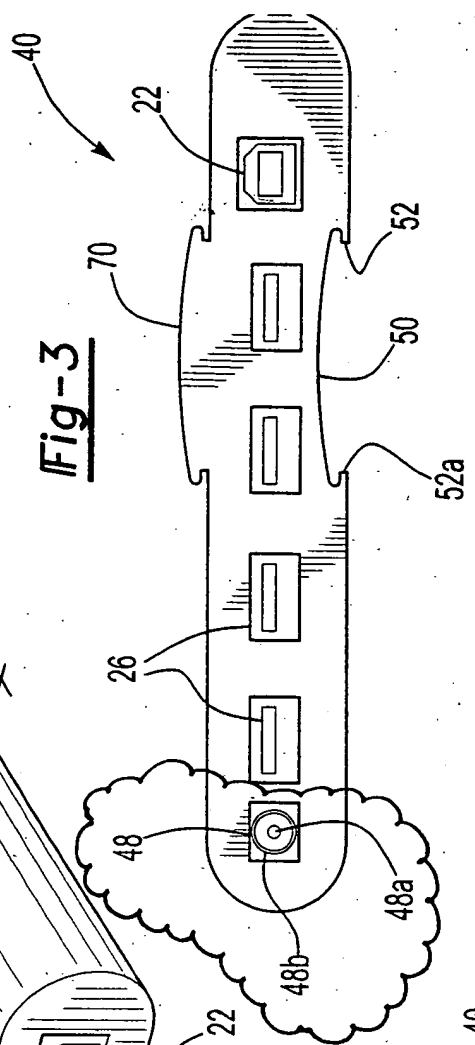


Fig-4

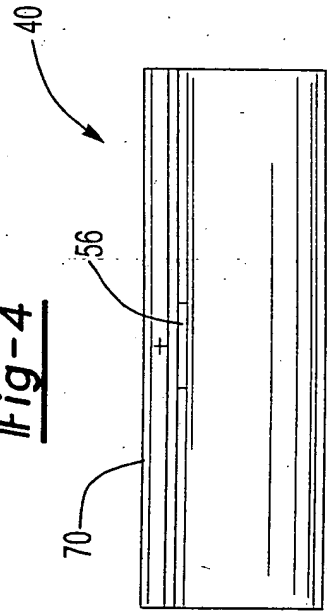
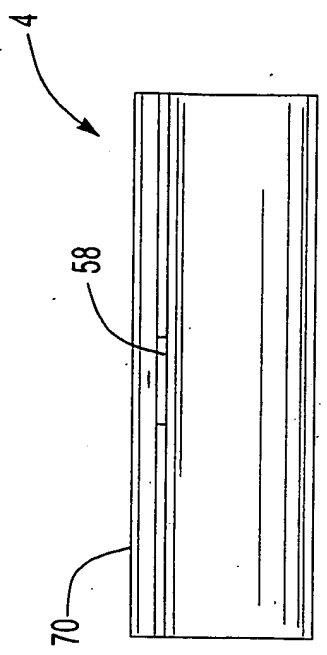
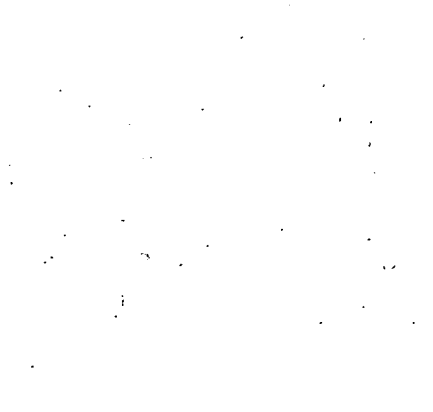
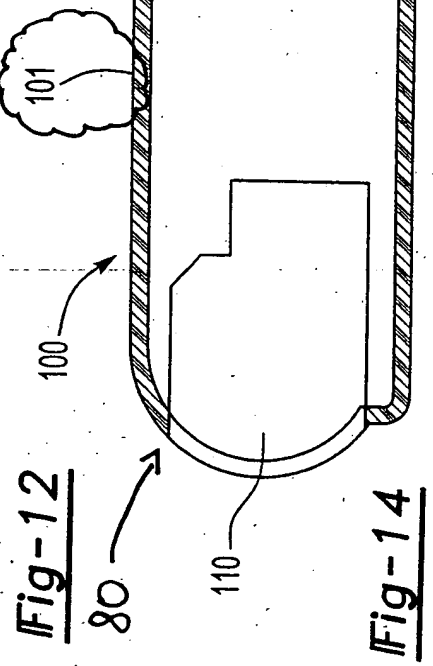
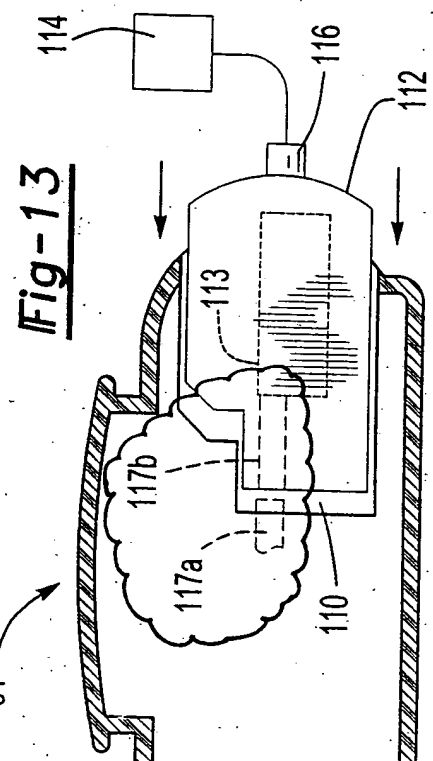
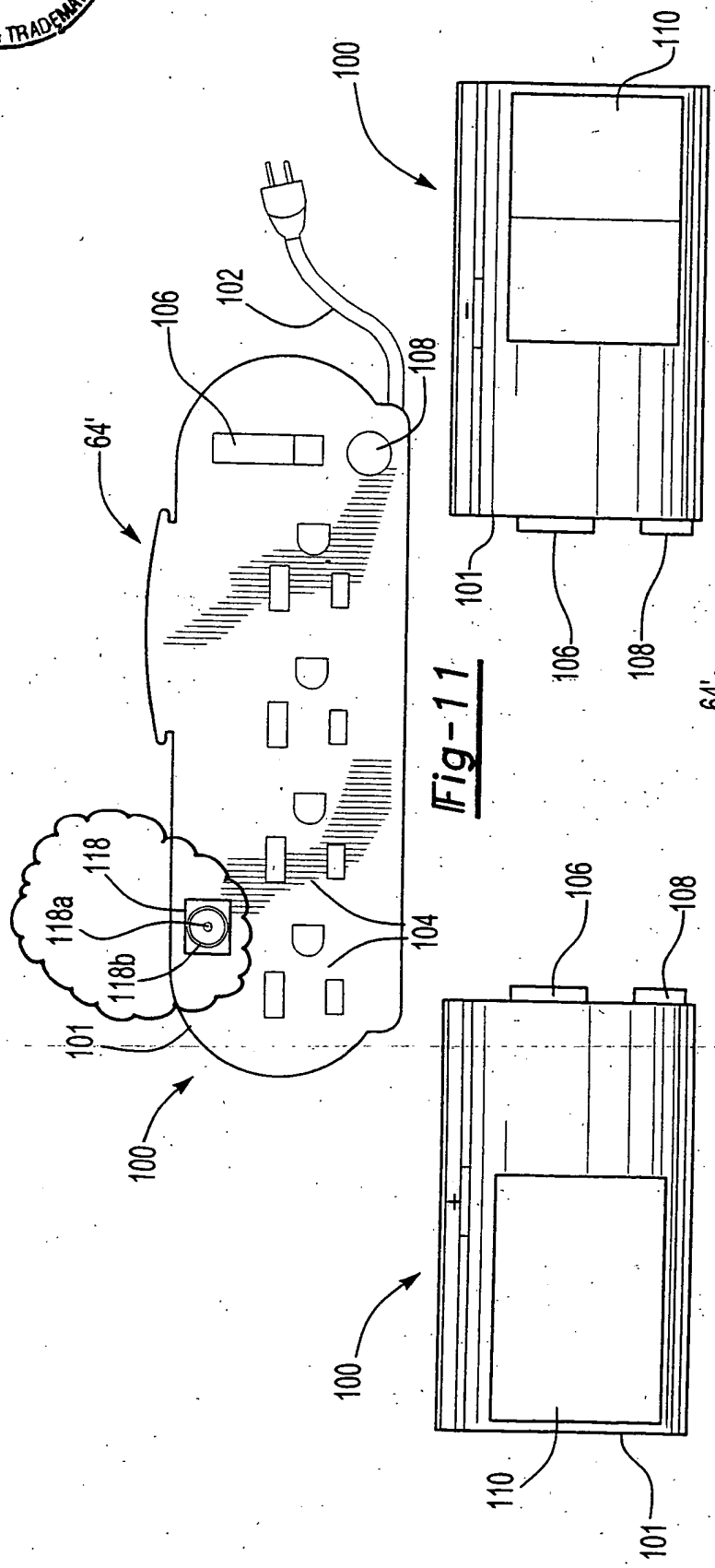


Fig-5



#6



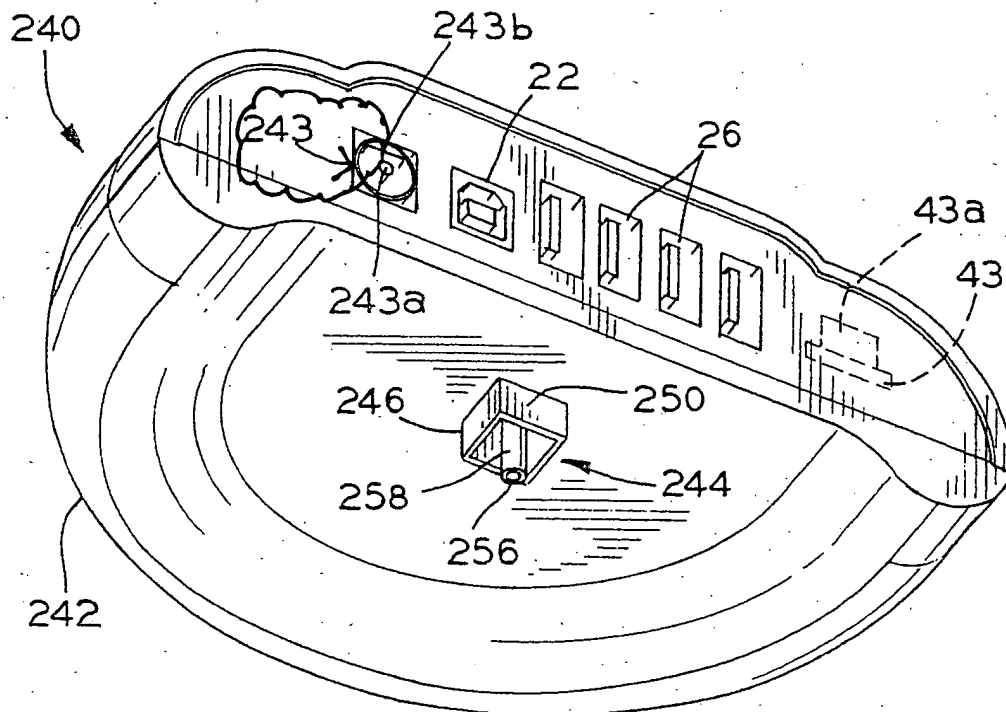


FIG. 27

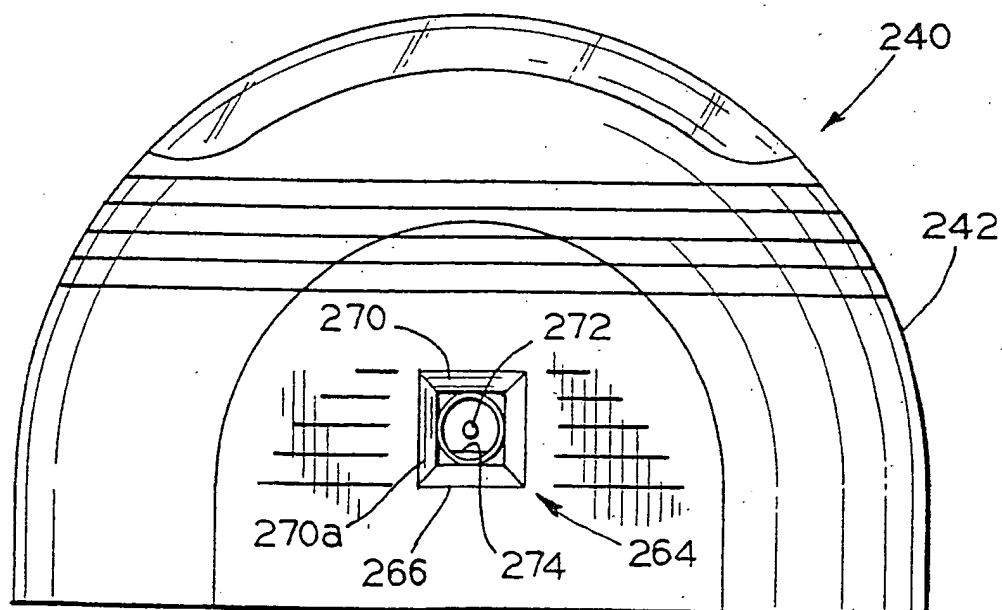


FIG. 28

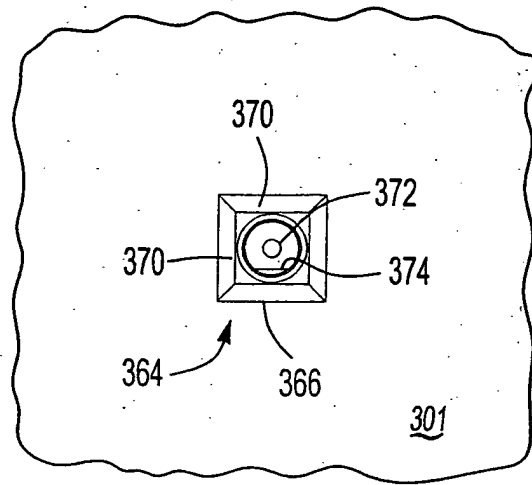


Fig-31

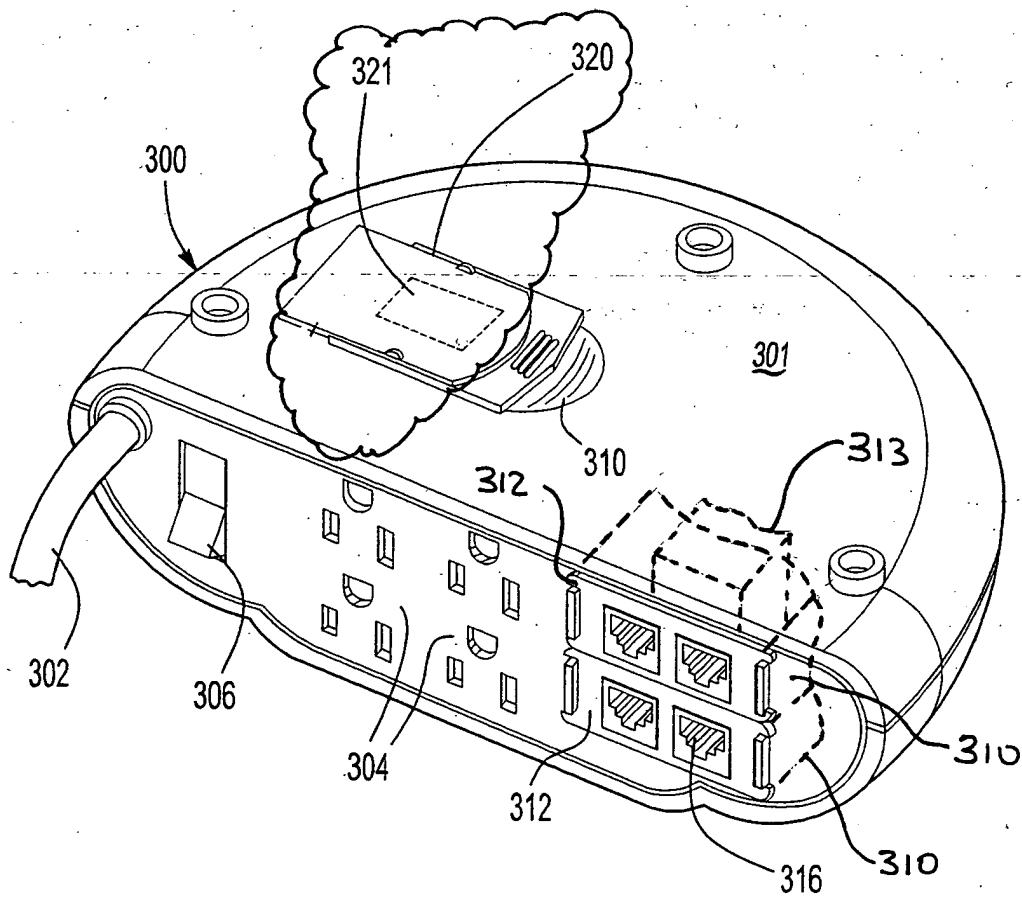


Fig-32

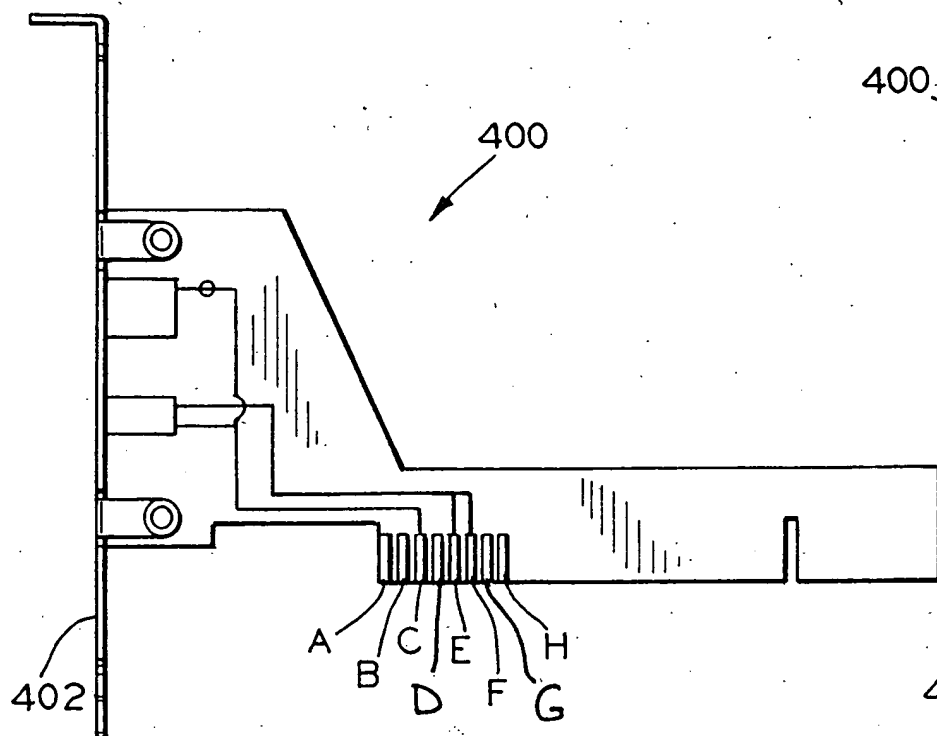


FIG. 33

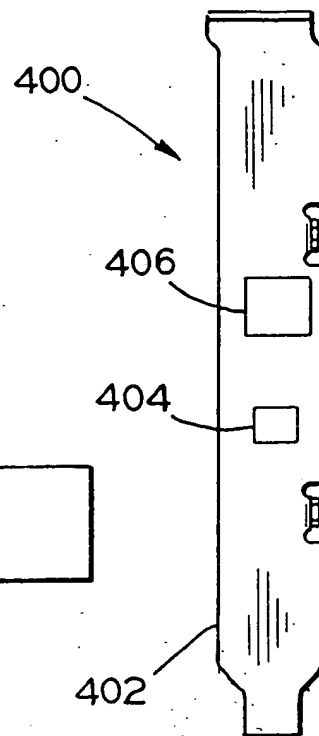


FIG. 34

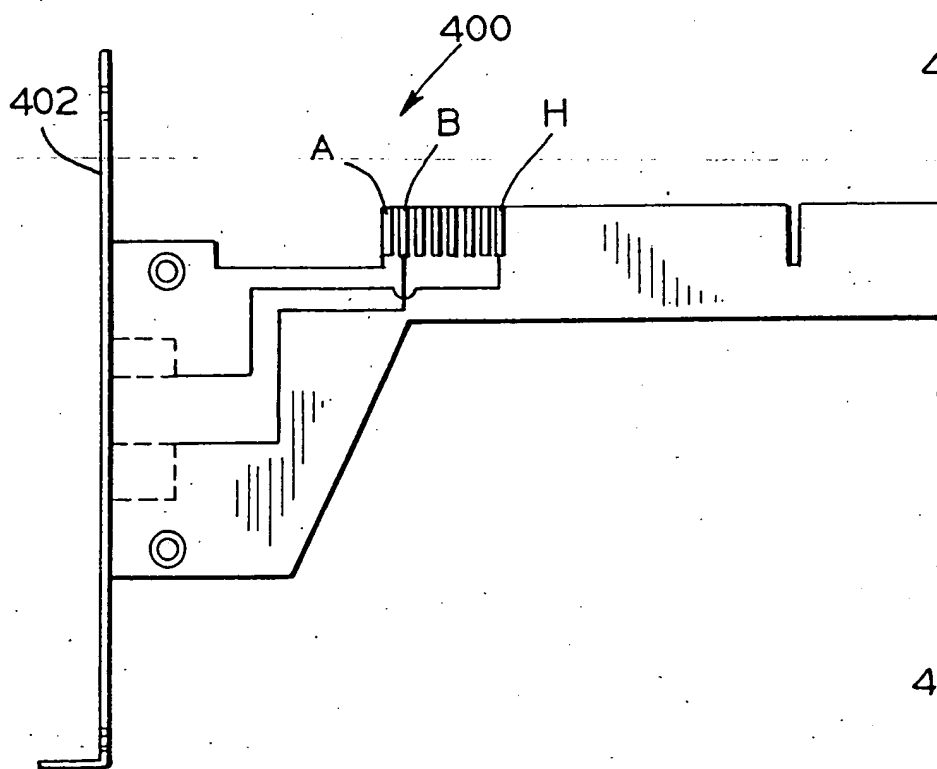


FIG. 35

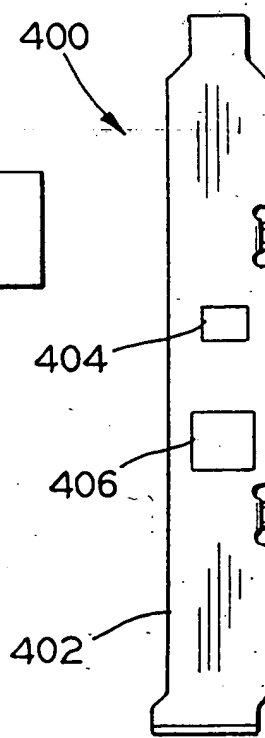


FIG. 36